County Facts: Zapata County, TX
Population 14,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: 7.3% (Zapata County), 4.3% (TX), 4.4% (United States)
Poverty rate: 30.8% (Zapata County), 16.6% (TX), 15.1% (United States)
Median family income (000s): $30 (Zapata County), $56 (TX), $57 (United States)
Population growth 2000-2017: 19% (Zapata County), 36% (TX), 16% (United States)
Manufacturing share of workforce: 3% (Zapata County), 9% (TX), 10% (United States)
Farming share of workforce: 2.7% (Zapata County), 1.1% (TX), 1.7% (United States)
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 4.7% (Zapata County), 3.3% (TX), 3.3% (United States)

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: 45% (Zapata County), 46% (TX), 21% (United States)
Percent reaching upper-middle class: 41% (Zapata County), 20% (TX), 20% (United States)
Percent achieving American Dream: 18% (Zapata County), 10% (TX), 10% (United States)
Percent giving birth as a teen: 33% (Zapata County), 25% (TX), 20% (United States)
Percent landing in jail: 1.9% (Zapata County), 1.5% (TX), 0.7% (United States)
Local school expenditure per student (000s): $5.4 (Zapata County), $5.8 (TX), $6.4 (United States)
### Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4-Year Colleges</th>
<th>2-Year Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low-income share of students</strong></td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low-income student success rate</strong></td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Texas A&M Int'l Univ. (public)†

- Low-income share of students: 31.9%
- Low-income student success rate: 13.6%

#### Texas 4-year-college average

- Low-income share of students: 63.7%
- Low-income student success rate: 56.0%

#### U.S. 4-year-college average

- Low-income share of students: 9.3%
- Low-income student success rate: 51.3%

#### Laredo CC (public)†

- Low-income share of students: 43.1%
- Low-income student success rate: 17.5%

#### Texas 2-year-college average

- Low-income share of students: 36.0%
- Low-income student success rate: 15.6%

#### U.S. 2-year-college average

- Low-income share of students: 32.9%
- Low-income student success rate: 32.9%

*: Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus. †: In nearby county

### Local Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Zapata County</th>
<th>TX</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent Black</strong></td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent Hispanic</strong></td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent over age 65</strong></td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent college grad</strong></td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)</strong></td>
<td>71</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Opioid deaths (deaths per 10k residents)</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Zapata County, TX**

Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan
Definitions and Sources

The Local Economy
- Unemployment rate (August 2018, BLS)
- Poverty rate (2012-2016 ACS)
- Median family income (2016 ACS)
- Manufacturing share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Farming share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (BLS LAUS)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out
- Percent graduating any college (2-yr or 4-yr, Tax Data 2, N/A for some counties)
- Percent reaching upper middle-class (top 20% of the U.S. income distribution, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent achieving American Dream (share of local low-income kids—i.e. those with 25th-income-percentile parents—who reach the top 20% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent (of local female kids) giving birth as a teen (Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent landing in jail (percent of local kids in jail on 1 April 2010, Tax Data 1 and 2010 Census, N/A for some counties)
- Local school expenditure per student (in public schools, NCES, N/A for some counties)

Local Colleges and Upward Mobility
- Low-income share of students (share of age-18-22 students with bottom-20% parents, Tax Data 2)
- Low-income student success rate (share of low-income age-18-22 students who reach the top 40% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 2)

Local Demographics
- Percent Black (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent Hispanic (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent over age 65 (2010 Census)
- Percent college grad (4-yr college, 2012-2016 ACS)
- Crime rate (serious violent and property arrests per 10,000 residents, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, N/A for some counties)
- Life expectancy (at age 40, Tax Data 3, N/A for some counties)
- Opioid deaths (per 10,000 residents in 2017, CDC, N/A for some counties and some counties report population weighted commuting zone average)

Sources Legend
- ACS: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys, 2012-2016
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database.
- Census: U.S. Census Bureau